and privilege as a Member of this House. (*Interruptions*) The Prime Minister's is an open Government. Your Government has promised to respect the institutions and if you really respect this august House, if you respect the institution of Indian Parlia
ment then please admit that this letter of the Finance Minister about the tentative agreement arrived at for the return of the money exists before your Government came in. Place that letter before this august House if you really respect this institution. (*Interruptions*) You have to. You cannot avoid this issue Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sharma, you asked a pertinent question to the Prime Minister, on which I cannot give a ruling. What ruling can I give? It is not a point of order.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: This House has been discussing Bofors issue for the last seven hours now. In seven hours one central question I asked... (*Interruptions*) The whole controversy is about the return of the money. That is being avoided. On the other hand it is said that the previous Government was withholding information. And this Government refuses to acknowledge the existance of that note, that crucial document. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, hon. Members. Just a minute...(*Interruptions*)... Mr. Shiv Shankerji, you want to ask something.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Yes, We expected a very frank answer from the Prime Minister on the question that has been asked by Mr. Anand Sharma. But I find that he is skirting the question. Well, if this is the open Government, we would rather like to withdraw at this stage and we will walk out.

(At this stage some hon. Members left the Chamber).

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Thank you very much. Now at least "Happy New Year" to all of you.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Madam Deputy Chairman, there is one question which is agitating the minds of all of us, that is, is there a deadline which the Prime Minister would like to set?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now the half-an-hour dicussion is over which lasted for a couple of hours. Now, I do not think that anybody is present for short duration discussion because those who wanted to raise are not here. We are not going to take it up.

I must inform the House that the Minister for Communications was to make a statement in the House but he has informed me that he is not well. So I would like the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs to lay it on the Table of the House but he cannot answer any query.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS—Contd.

Constitution of an Expert Committee for the Assessment and Evaluation of the Centre for Development of Telematics

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Madam Deputy Chairman, on behalf of Shri K.P. Unnikrishnan, Minister of Surface Transport with additional charge of the Ministry of Communications, I lay on the Table a statement regarding constitution of an expert committee for the assessment and evaluation of the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Before I adjourn the House...(*Interruptions*)...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: What about short duration discussion?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Members who wanted to raise it were not present when I took it up. I asked the House but nobody was interested to raise it.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): Madam Deputy Chairman, may I thank you for conducting the proceedings of the House with all dignity and decorum. May

[Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy]

I wish you and the other colleagues here "A Happy New Year".

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I wish the Members "A Happy New Year" I hope when we meet again in the next year, we will meet in a more cordial atmosphere, a better cooperative atmosphere, more informative atmosphere and I thank the Members, staff and everybody for their cooperation.

Now I adjourn the House *sine die*.

The House then adjourned *sine die* at twenty-two minutes past three of the clock on the 30th December, 1989.